

His Name Is Hugh B. Hester, Retired

Another 'Political General' Champions Pro-Red Causes

By JIM G. LUCAS

Script: Howard Starr, Writer

Another "political general"—this one a supporter of pro-communist causes—turns up today.

Retired Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Hester next Sunday is to address a rally for peace and friendship in New York's Carnegie Hall. The rally is being sponsored by the National Committee for American-Soviet Friendship.

The American artist, Rockwell Kent, who once took the 17th Amendment when asked if he was a communist, and more recently gave his \$30,000 art collection to Soviet Russia, will preside. Dr. Jerome Davis, who has been connected with several leftwing movements, and an unidentified representative of the Soviet Embassy are listed as speakers.

Hester is a former military attaché to Australia and was director of a program in occupation Germany from 1945 to 1947 under Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Joseph McNarney and Lucius Clay.

Far Left Causes

When former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker championed the political far right, Gen. Hester espouses causes of the far left. Both ex-soldiers are critical of U. S. pol-

icy. But there the similarity ends.

Gen. Walker resigned after he was disciplined for alleged rightist indoctrination of his troops in Germany. He refused retirement which would have brought him about \$1000 per month.

Gen. Hester, who is 66, chose to retire in 1951. Army records show he gets a pension of \$768.92 a month. Assuming he received his check Nov. 1, he has drawn \$97,832.84 in retirement pay in the last 10 years.

Efforts to reach Gen. Hester to learn what he will say Sunday were unsuccessful. He could not be located in New York or Chapel Hill, N. C., which he lists as his home.

Gives Views

But the leftwing newspaper National Guardian, which carried the announcement of the Sunday peace rally also published an article by Gen. Hester which gives a possible preview of his views on the world situation. The article was entitled "How the Berlin War Fuse Was Lighted by the West."

Gen. Hester writes that "Berlin is a lighted fuse" and that "this fuse was lighted by James Byrnes, then U. S. Secretary of State, when he demanded the unification of Germany on U. S. terms in

a speech at Stuttgart on Aug. 26, 1946."

He denounced the Marshall Plan as marking the official end of U. S. economic cooperation (in postwar Europe) on a non-political basis.

He says this country and its allies precipitated the 1947 Berlin blockade by suddenly introducing new currency "110 miles inside the Soviet zone."

Rearmament of West Germany, he says, "constitutes betrayal of those who served our country in World Wars I and II."

Letter

On April 28, Gen. Hester wrote a letter to The New York Times denouncing UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson's "sad attempts to defend U. S. policy toward Cuba." He declared the Cuban government "is not communist" and that Fidel Castro is a "dedicated Cuban nationalist and humanist."

Last December, Gen. Hester toured Cuba under sponsorship of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which has been under investigation by the Senate Internal Security sub-committee.

House Un-American Activities Committee files indicate he has signed several

leftwing petitions and appeals in recent years calling for universal disarmament and abolishing the Un-American Activities Committee.

Record

In 1958, Rep. Harold B. Cooley (D., N. C.) inserted into the Congressional Record an article written by Gen. Hester. It was titled, "The USA, the USSR and Peace." Rep. Cooley described Gen. Hester as a close personal friend... a distinguished American citizen." He said they were classmates at North Carolina University.

In that article Gen. Hester said the idea that NATO is necessary to deter Soviet aggression is a "myth."

Rep. Cooley said today Gen. Hester often sends him articles and ask that they be put in the Record, and that he inserted "a couple" without reading them.

Since then, he said, he has been so annoyed at the contents of articles sent to him by Gen. Hester that he has thrown them away.

Army records show that Gen. Hester's last post was as commanding general of the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot. A spokesman said a retired officer can say what he chooses and "there's nothing we can do about it."

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